# THE DUCK DEFENDER

## ARIADNE'S THREAD

STORY: GUIDO MARTINA ART: GIORGIO CAVAZZANO

Now that the nephews are out on their summer camping trip, I can enjoy some quiet, peaceful time alone!

1-906-C

Donald! Yoo-hoo!

Argh! Goodbye, peace and quiet!

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Oh, Daisy! How nice to see you!

Liar!

I'm here for a bit of company! How's that sound?

Splendid!

Heck!

We'll have an amazing day together!

To start, we'll visit the mall!

Oh, misery!

Then I have this little restaurant in mind, that's so cute...

...and expensive!

Then we'll finish our shopping...

What did I do to deserve this?

Then we'll catch a movie, a musical maybe, and then...

Oh! The telephone!

DRIIIINNNN DRN...NN

Yes, Uncle Scrooge! Of course, Uncle Scrooge! Right away, Uncle Scrooge!

**Huh**?

That was Uncle Scrooge!

I heard!

CLIK

He needs me for a **very important** mission!

**Hmm...**

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You can't imagine how much it pains me to miss our time together, but...

Hmm...

But, alas, I find myself called yet again to the assistance of my dear uncle!

Excuses!

You don't believe me? It's the truth!

Hah! You men lie even when you're telling the truth.

I'm coming with you! I want to know where you're really going!

Ah, what trust!

And if you lied to me, we'll never go out shopping together again!

Oh, how horrible!

Here I am, Uncle Scrooge!

**Bah!** As if you two were going to discuss **state secrets!**

Why did you not come **alone?** You need a nanny?

We need to discuss serious matters, **man to man!**

What do you have against **women?**

Talk too much! Bird-brains! Inferior beings!

Inferior, **us?** *Superior*, you mean!

Come now!

For your information, history is filled with examples of women more illustrious than men! Poets, scientists, warriors!

Balderdash!

Warriors?

You don't think we can use weapons?

Your weapons... ha, ha! Powder, perfume, and lipstick! Frivolities!

I'm telling you...

Tell me nothing! You're wasting your breath! **Silence!**

Hm?

Donald! I'll be gone until tomorrow morning! I'll need you to guard this place tonight.

You... you want me to guard your cash?

Tsk, tsk! These millions are being moved elsewhere. The location doesn't concern you.

However, there are still masterpieces of art, trinkets, treasures from across the world, and other objects to tempt a thief or two!

Alright! I'm your man!

On this paper, I've described the alarm system in detail! Read it, learn it by heart, then destroy it!

*"Entry door: turn the.."*

**Shush!** We aren't alone!

You don't trust me?

I already told you, these are **men's** affairs!

Men know how to keep a secret! Women, on the other hand...

Grr! I'm leaving before I explode!

Those two presumptuous jerks deserve a lesson! But.. **how** to give it to them?

I'll ask Elodie Edyson for help! She's president of the feminist club!

Elodie is an inventor in her free time. She could help me!

But... hm! Her store is on the other side of town, and I don't have a car...

Ah, ha! A chance to get off my feet!

?

Are you alone, pretty miss?

Yes, as it turns out...

I forgot I needed my car today, as I was leaving...

In that case, allow me!

Thank you... you're too kind!

Where to?

To the end of Cyclamen Avenue!

911

If I hadn't met you, I'd've had to walk the entire way by foot!

That would be unfortunate for your small, graceful feet!

We're here! Thank youuuuuu!

Should I wait for you?

ELODIE EDYSON BOUTIQUE

Wait? Why?

Hee, hee! For a little romantic dri...

Excuse me?

Oof!

SBONK

Men! Ugh! All the same!

VROUUMM

Is Elodie Edyson here?

Back there!

20

Elodie

Well look who it is! My dear Daisy! Would you like some tea, hon?

Thank you! I could really use some. Today has given me a stomachache!

The men of my family... pfff... what monsters!

Ugh! All men are like that!

Presumptuous, tyrannical, vain, jealous, petty...

Egotistical, liars, arrogant, despots, gossips...

And we women have to suffer it!

The situation is intolerable! We need to rebel!

A long time ago, I thought about taking up that path of war! But... pfft... I've gotten too old. **Oh**!

I mean... hmm... I'm no longer very young! You, on the other hand, you could...

I want nothing more! I'll be a paladin in defense of all women!

Perfect! And I'll help you! You know, I'm an inventor! I even taught Gyro Gearloose some things when he was young!

In addition, I inherited the laboratory of Madame Parfum, a specialist in magic potions, "special" perfumes, and debilitating pills!

Debilitating pills?

They knock out enemies! Only one is needed to incapacitate a foe!

How?

Swallow one of these, and you're guaranteed 24 hours of deep sleep, with no side effects!

With this invention and others, you'll become the invincible **Duck Defender!**

Fantastic!

And then... hmm... let me see... I'll have to create a costume fit for the job!

Make sure it's elegant!

Leave it to me! You'll be a darling!

When will it be ready?

This evening! I'll send it and the rest to your place!

Thanks, Elodie! I can't wait!

Meanwhile...

Now that you know it by heart, eat the paper! That way, you'll be sure not to lose it!

DU CENT AU MILLIARD

Mym! Munch! Gulp! Glarg!

Good! I leave in peace! My bin is in your hands!

And you couldn't find better ones!

Bye-bye, Uncle Scrooge! See you tomorrow!

13

Here I am, promoted to the rank of **Special Guard**! I'll be the terror of thieves!

But... oh! I hope those thieves don't become *my* terror!

Hmm... I'd feel more secure with the Duck Avenger's gadgets at my side!

I'll make a quick trip to the house to grab them!

It'll only take a few minutes!

KRRR

14

At this time of day, Uncle Scrooge's bin isn't in danger! There's nary a soul who'd dare something in daylight!

?

I don't recognize this **silhouette**! Must be a stranger!

Hmm... Miss...

Yeessss, mister?

Can I help you?

Oooh! That would be veeery kind! My motor went kaput and I don't know how to fix it...

It would be unfortunate to cover such pretty hands with oil! Allow me!

Thaaank youu mister!

15

Let's take a look at this erratic engine!

One.. two...

...three!

Oof!

Stand with your hands above your head, pigeon!

Ow! Oo!

Hey! What are you gonna do?

Silence, pigeon! Get in the driver's seat!

Start the car, and no funny business or I blast you out of the country!

Gulp!

Where.. where to?

Drive straight for now, then I'll tell you!

Uh.. could I stop at my place for a moment? I have to...

**No!** Start the car and shut your beak, pigeon!

Hmm.. Argh.. and the Duck Avenger's gadgets are home!

Stop mumbling! It's annoying!

What a character! And to think I complained about Daisy!

Stop and get out! We're here!

Where's here?

No questions! Shut the beak and open the door!

Brrr!

The alarm is connected to the door! It only needs a touch on the doorknob to start!

DRING

Whelp!

In!

DRIIINNNG

Argh! This alarm is gonna burst my eardrums!

There! No more alarm! Happy?

I'll be happy when you tell me what you **want** from me!

SLAM

We'll tell him!

The pigeon wants to know what we want from him!

About time!

18

First, introductions! The lady's Sirena, I'm Foxham, and he's Brutus!

Ready to crack necks if you don't do what we say!

W-what?

The pigeon still doesn't understand!

Only you know how to enter McDuck's bin without setting off the alarm! So..

Gulp! You want me to let you in?

Yep!

He finally gets it!

But... Uncle Scrooge already sent away...

Don't waste your breath telling us what we already know!

He sent his wealth to a secret location!

And he marked this location on a map!

This map is locked in the safe in his office! So..

So nothing! I won't take you! I'd rather die!

*You* die? Of course we wouldn't kill **you**!

If you refuse, I'll kidnap your girlfriend Daisy, bring her here...

Huh?

And I get to snap her neck!

No..

So, pigeon, will you get us in the bin?

I don't have a choice!

You'll leave once night falls! For the moment, there are too many people around!

Sniff!

That evening...

Let's go! But no tricks or trouble! The life of Daisy is on the line!

Pff! I'll be as meek as a lamb!

Don't make a face like that! It could arouse suspicion!

Smile! As if I was your girl!

Grr...

Soon afterwards...

From Elodie Edyson!

Oh, thank you!

The package also contains all the instructions!

Wonderful!

Here, have a tip!

Thanks!

Good-bye! Say hi to Elodie for m...

**Huh?**

What on earth? Why, it's **him**!

Oh, it's definitely him! The villain!

What a monster! He's going out with a... a..

Argh! I bet he's taking her to the bin to have some company and keep him from being bored!

Very well! He'll have an account to settle with **me**, that liar!

First, I'll have to memorize the instructions for the gadgets! Then... grr... I'll get them!

Half an hour later...

I know it all by heart! I can become **the Duck Defender!**

Ready for vengeance!

I'll run to the bin... huh?

Oops! I forgot these boots are equipped with roller skates!

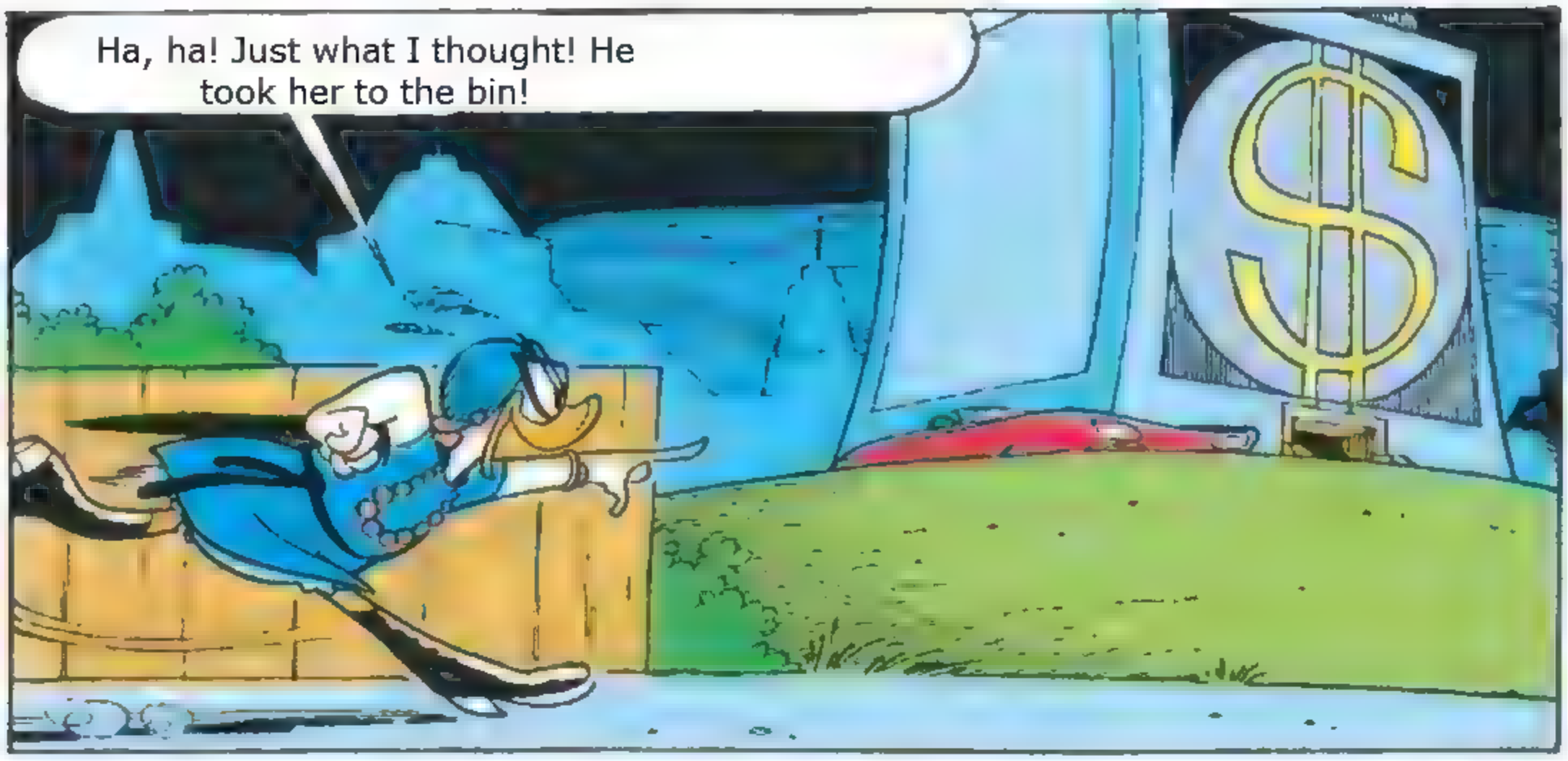
I need to keep my balance...

Luckily, I was a master skater as a girl!

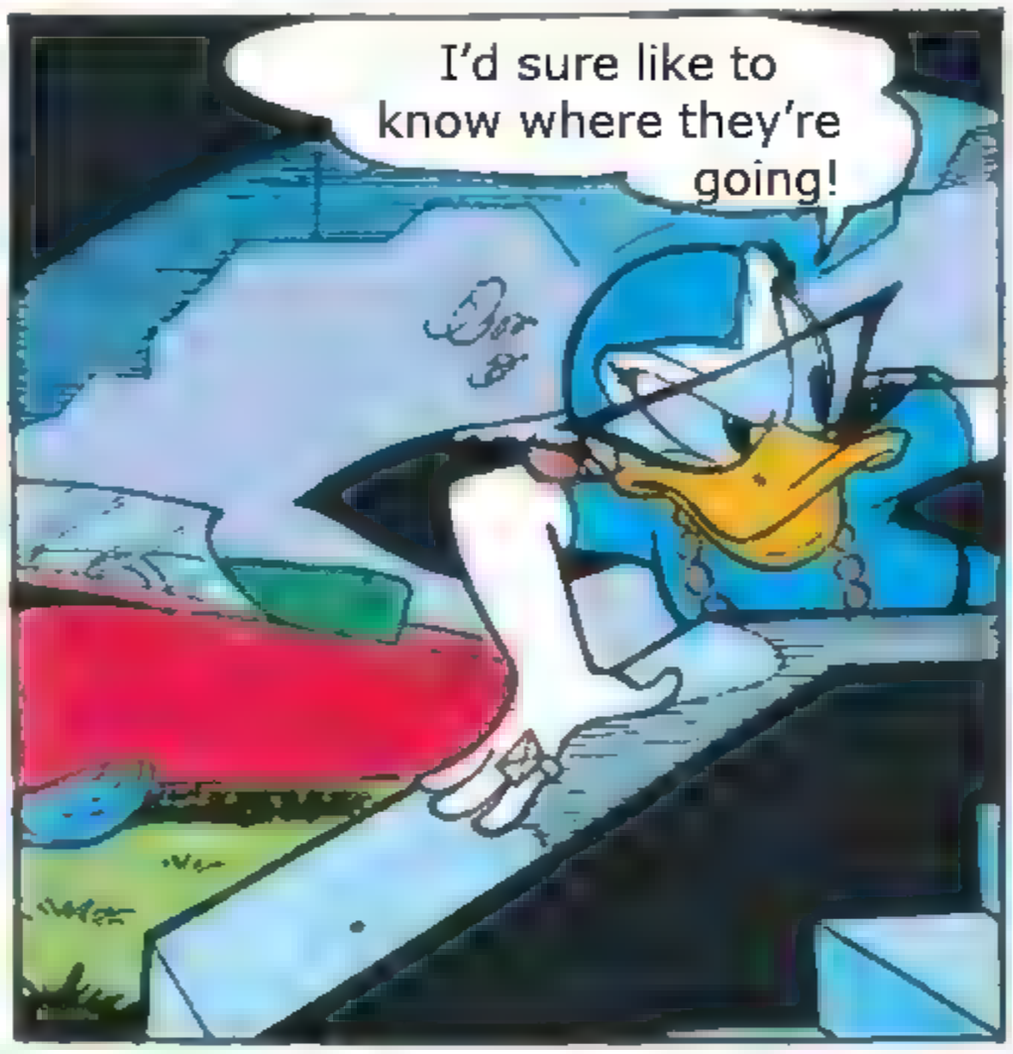
Tsk, tsk! Just look at how today's girls dress!

Bah! That's fashion!

24


Ha, ha! Just what I thought! He took her to the bin!

Gulp! They're coming back!


I'd sure like to know where they're going!

And I will!
25

CRUNK

Now may I drive home?

Out of the question!

But a deal is a deal! I got you the map!

And until we've deciphered it, you'll remain our prisoner!

And furthermore, you'll remain our prisoner until we've emptied the hiding place of the old miser!

Hrumph!

Get out and open the door!

Double hrumph!

DRIIINNNG

I'm sick of this alarm!

Go in!

Hmm.. An alarm connected to the door!

I need to find another way in that's less noi..

GROOWL

Wak!

Down, puppy!

WUAAR

AAAR

Here, take a pill!

27

Grrr---

Oof!

THONF

There! Out of commission for 24 hours!

Let's hope that the ruckus didn't alert them!

Whelp! There goes that idea!

28

No! Trapped!

Ha, ha! I thought I heard barking!

If I'm not mistaken, it's Donald's girlfriend!

Should I snap her neck?

Not now, Brutus! No need, yet!

Pfft! Shame!

Well, hen? How did you get here?

Bah!

Hold up, Foxham!

No matter how she arrived, one thing is certain! She won't be leaving!

We can't lose time chatting! We have more important things to do!

Right as ever, Sirena!

Sirena and I are going to study the map! You, Brutus, cage the hen in the tower!

You'll be able to console Donald by telling him jokes!

As if!

Let's go!

Hey! Don't stare at my legs!

I don't give a darn about your legs! It's your *neck* I'm interested in!

I could kick this oaf in the head, but the two others are still down there!

You there?

Yep!

Take the ladder! I hardly trust Brutus' intelligence.

Go! Move!

Now's my moment!

Hey! Let go of that!

Brute! Will you really keep a lady from powdering her face?

Powder? Show me!

Gladly!

Sniff, sniff! That smells good!

Like it? It's called...

GOUGH...

Pfffff!

PFFF!

...paralyzing powder!

PLOMP PLOMP

That'll keep Brutus out of the way for a few hours!

Now, let's take care of the prisoner!

32

TUDD!

CROUIC CROUIC

Daisy! They got you!?

What Daisy are you talking about, traitor? You're seeing things!

Hmm... You're telling me you're *not*...

Do I look like some Daisy?

Look at me!

But then, who are you?

You've never heard of the **Duck Defender**, paladin of women?

No, never!

Well, that's **me!** And I'm here to free you, even though you don't deserve it!

Ah! Did you do that? You killed him?

The Duck Defender doesn't kill! She paralyzes!

Let's look for the others!

How? They took the ladder!

Bah! The Duck Defender needs no ladder!

She descends with **this**!

Her patented Elastic Belt!

34

PLOP

Come down!

I keep asking myself if I'm dreaming or not!

Let's find the two other bandits!

Easy to say! This building is a real labyrinth!

Bravo! For once, a **man** gives me an **intelligent** idea!

Ah?

35

When Theseus entered the labyrinth of Crete to kill the minotaur, Ariadne gave him a thread of **pearls**!

As he moved through the maze, he let the pearls fall to the ground one by one!

Those pearls made a path for him to help him find the exit later!

But...

...what does that have to do with **us**?

A little patience and you'll see!

To start, I scatter pearls across the floor!

PLING PLING PLING

360°

Then, I open the door to the exit!

Hey! Wait a minute! You'll set off the alarm!

DRIIINNNG

Wherever they are, the two scoundrels will hear it!

Hey, what...

Don't move!

I... don't understand!

What do you think of that, **man**?

Uh oh!

Oops!

37

BANG

BANG

WOOUMP

Clearly, I'm still dreaming!

Soporific pearls!

There's a rope back there! Go grab it!

Aye-aye!

Ah! The secret map!

Tie the two fiends up well! We'll tell the police to come get them!

Yes, Ma'am!

38

Then...

Let's go!

Now, tell me how you were captured!

Well...

Go on, I want to know!

Hm... that Sirena.. uh... seduced me..

Grr... This traitor deserves a fair punishment!

Stop!

Huh?

There's an open bar! Go call the police!

Alright!

39

Well, when a lesson is needed, it's *needed*!

I called!

Good!

GR-IEE'KK

Then goodbye!

Hey! Gulp! What...

That'll teach you to not *let yourself* be *seduced*!

ZOOM

Stop! Stop!

Oof! That shrew stranded me here! And right now!

Argh! 13 miles from here to Duckburg!

DUCKBURG
13 MI

I'll be exhausted when I get home!

At the sixth mile...

...if I don't collapse before I get there!

Finally...

My house... my hou...

...SSSZZZZ...

PLOMP

41

Next morning...

Donald! **Donald!**

Zzz... huh?

BONK BONK

Already back, Uncle Scrooge?

Grr! Didn't I tell you to watch over my bin?

In fact, uh...

*In fact*, a **very precious map *disappeared*** from my office!

And who do you suppose is at fault?

Gulp! Let me expl...

You can explain after you've been **scalped**!

Yikes!

Uncle Scrooge! Donald! Yoo-hoo!

Don't interfere, woman! This is a discussion between **men**!

But, Uncle Scrooge, I need to return this document to you!

What document?

A stunning girl with brilliant eyes just gave it to me!

Gulp! The Duck Defender!

**Woo-hoo!** My precious map!

There's also a letter!

My map... *mwah! Mwah!*

Uncle Scrooge! The letter!

"Dear Daisy, I'm confiding this very precious map with you because you are the only one capable of keeping in safe! Signed, The Duck Defender"

"P.S. Men, bah!"

**Donald!** Did you hear? Only *her*!

Yes, heh, heh...

You, on the other hand... Grr!

Uk-oh!

**Grrr! Grrr! Grr!**

Tsk! Men!

Ahhhhhhhhhhh!

Fin